

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9: (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of laying hot blacktop paving material comprising bitumen-coated aggregate, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving the bitumen-coated aggregate, the bitumen-coated aggregate having been ~~previously coated~~ formed by coating the aggregate with bitumen,
- (b) mixing a mixture consisting essentially of water and wetting agent with the bitumen-coated aggregate to form the blacktop paving material,
- (c) spreading the blacktop paving material on a surface for receiving the blacktop material immediately after the mixture of water and wetting agent is mixed with the bitumen-coated aggregate.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the mixture of water and wetting agent has a molar concentration of wetting agent within the range of 0.1% to 1.5%.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the mixture of water and wetting agent is added to the bitumen-coated aggregate at a weight concentration of 1% to 5% relative to the weight of the bitumen-coated aggregate.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the mixing of the mixture of water and wetting agent and bitumen-coated aggregate is conducted by kneading.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the bitumen in the bitumen coated aggregate is in a non-foamy fluid state during the mixing and spreading steps.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the bitumen-coated aggregate is at a temperature within the range of 60°C to 100°C during the receiving step.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the bitumen-coated aggregate is at a temperature within the range of 100°C to 130°C during the receiving step.

17. (Currently amended) Apparatus for laying hot blacktop paving material comprising bitumen-coated aggregate comprising:

- a receiver in which the bitumen-coated aggregate is received, the bitumen-coated aggregate already having been ~~coated~~ formed by coating the aggregate with bitumen,
- a mixer to combine a mixture consisting essentially of water and wetting agent with the bitumen-coated aggregate to form the blacktop paving material,
- a spreader device to lay the blacktop paving material on a surface, immediately after the mixture of water and wetting agent is combined with the bitumen-coated aggregate.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17 that includes a metering device to meter the mixture of water and wetting agent to the mixer.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the bitumen-coated aggregate is at a temperature of about 110°C during the receiving step.